



Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa

Volume 8, Issue 03

January 19, 2006

# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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### First Lady Laura Bush Announces Africa Textbook Initiative

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff  
Writer

25,000 new books for  
schools in Ghana.

In remarks at the Accra  
Teacher Training College,  
the first lady, who is a

teacher and  
librarian, said  
the Text-  
books and  
Learning Ma-  
terials Pro-  
gram is part  
of President  
Bush's effort  
to expand  
access to  
education in  
Africa.

The first  
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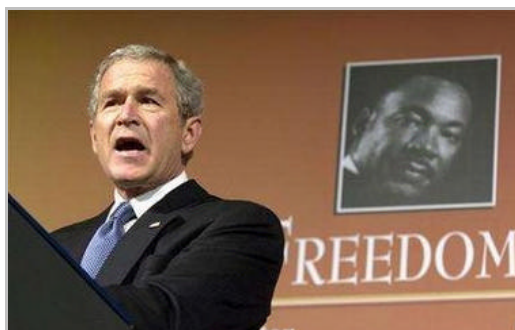
First lady Laura Bush speaks at the Accra Teacher Training Center where she launched the Africa Education Initiative Textbooks Program in Accra, Ghana, Jan. 17. (AP Photo/Kwasi Kpodo)

Washington --  
"The people of  
the United  
States believe  
in Africa's fu-  
ture" and, like  
Africans, know  
that "education  
is vital to a bet-  
ter future for all  
of the world's  
children," first  
lady Laura Bush  
said January 17  
as she launched  
the Africa Edu-  
cation Initiative  
textbooks pro-  
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donation of

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### Bush Honors Civil Rights Activists on U.S. National Holiday

On the U.S. holi-  
day that honors  
the life and leg-  
acy of Martin Lu-  
ther King Jr.,  
President Bush  
paid tribute to  
two Americans  
who paved the  
way for civil  
rights for all  
Americans at a



President Bush speaks at the Kennedy Center, 01/16/06. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

January 16 cere-  
mony.

"The reason to  
honor Martin Luther  
King is to remember  
his strength of char-  
acter and his leader-  
ship...[and] [t]he  
reason to honor  
Mrs. Parks is not  
only to pay homage

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## First Lady Laura Bush Announces Africa Textbook Initiative . . .

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country Africa trip that began in Liberia and also will take her to Nigeria.

President Bush's Africa Education Initiative, she told her audience, is a \$600 million commitment to provide books, scholarships, school uniforms and teacher training so that more African children can attend school. The initiative includes funding to train 920,000 teachers in 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. As of December 2005, more than 300,000 teachers, both new and experienced, had received training, she said.

Education produces many social benefits, and perhaps none greater than better health, the first lady said, calling education "our greatest ally in the effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS."

"We know from experience that educated girls and boys are more likely to know what HIV is, and how to avoid infection. Girls who are educated have more economic and social resources to rely on, and, therefore, have more power to negotiate their own sexual lives. In fact, educated young women have lower rates of HIV/AIDS, healthier families and higher rates of education for their own children.

"Sadly," she said, "too many children around the world do not have access to education or schooling."

The problem, she added, is "particularly acute" in sub-Saharan Africa. "More than one-third of primary-school-age children are not enrolled in school at all, and of those who do enter the first grade, fewer than half will complete primary school."

Focusing on Ghana, the first lady said that more of the country's children are going to school today than ever before. "The enrollment rate for school-age children has risen from 73 percent in 1998 to more than 86 percent in 2004," she said. "This is a very positive development."

In addition to the textbook program she announced, the first lady said the Africa Education Initiative already has facilitated the shipment of more than 2 million books to African schools and libraries. "When I visited Tanzania and Rwanda last summer, I announced the donations of books in those countries. And today," she added, "I'm pleased to announce the donation of 25,000 books for school libraries in Ghana."

The first lady said the donated books are new books that have been selected carefully to be appropriate for school-age children in Africa.

She told her audience that a major goal of President Bush's Africa Education Initiative is to enroll more girls in school. "To meet that goal," she said, "the United States sponsors the Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program, which will provide 550,000 scholarships to girls at the primary and secondary school level. So far, 120,000 scholarships have been provided in 40 countries. The scholarships pay for tuition, fees, books, uniforms and other essential supplies."

The American people support these scholarships, the first lady said, because Americans believe that investing in a child's education will produce benefits many

times over in the future. "An educated woman is better able to provide for her family economically, and to be an advocate for her own children's education. She has the knowledge and the skills to find new ways to improve life in her community. She's prepared to be an active participant in society, and perhaps even a national leader," she told her audience.

Representatives from six American universities were with the first lady in Ghana because their schools are now partners in education with six nations in Africa. "In the United States, our higher education institutions welcome students from around the world," the first lady said. "Their campuses are filled with men and women who strive to improve life for people everywhere."

The first lady arrived in Ghana after attending the January 16 inauguration of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Liberia's newly elected president and the first woman to be elected president of an African nation.

"This is a historic time for Liberia, for Africa and for women everywhere," the first lady said. "President Johnson-Sirleaf is an example for young women around the world of a woman who has risen to the very top of her government through hard work, faith in democracy, and belief in the power of education."

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/01/20060117.html>) of the first lady's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

♦

## Americans Celebrate Achievements of Martin Luther King Jr.

By Michael Jay Friedman  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Americans on each third Monday of January honor the life and achievements of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., (1929–1968), the 1964 Nobel Peace laureate and the individual most associated with the triumphs of the African-American civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s. As a political organizer, supremely skilled orator and advocate of nonviolent protest, King was pivotal in persuading his fellow Americans to end the legal segregation that prevailed throughout the South and parts of other regions, and in sparking support for the civil rights legislation that established the legal framework for racial equality in the United States.

King was among those champions of justice whose influence transcended national boundaries. A student of the philosophy and principles of nonviolence enunciated by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948), King in 1959 traveled to India, where he studied further the legacy of the man his widow, Coretta Scott King, later would call his “political mentor.” Nelson Mandela, accepting the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, similarly credited King as his predecessor in the effort to resolve justly the issues of racism and human dignity.

Son of the prominent Atlanta pastor Martin Luther King Sr., King at the age of 26 completed a doctorate in theology at Boston Uni-

versity. In 1954, while completing his dissertation, King accepted the pastorate at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. It was in Montgomery the following year that Rosa Parks (<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Oct/26-765603.html>), an African-American seamstress, was jailed for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated

tion ([http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history\\_geography\\_and\\_population/civil\\_rights/african\\_american\\_rights/brown\\_v\\_board\\_education.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/civil_rights/african_american_rights/brown_v_board_education.html)) decision, declared the bus segregation law unconstitutional, King emerged as a national figure.

In 1957, King was among the founders of the Southern Christian

Leadership Conference (SCLC). This was an alliance of black ministers and churches organized to pursue nonviolent direct action against segregation. SCLC leaders hoped to change public opinion and to complement the legal challenges to segregation pursued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). King was a dynamic force within the SCLC,



**Charles Johnson, 13, left, and Christina Woods, 12, carry a large portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr., joined by Tristyn Scarano, 7, right, as they lead a march in honor of the late civil rights leader, in downtown Fresno, Calif., Monday morning, Jan. 16, 2005. (AP Photo/Fresno Bee, John Walker)**

municipal bus to a white passenger. The incident sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott (<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Dec/01-565849.html>), in which the city's African-Americans refused to patronize its segregated bus system. King led the organization directing the boycott and became the movement's public face, appealing to white Americans' spirit of brotherhood. When the federal courts, following the reasoning of the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Educa-*

emerging as its leading fund-raiser and as a skillful political tactician who successfully forged alliances with sympathetic Northern whites. In 1959, King traveled to India, where he met with followers of Gandhi and further refined his thought on nonviolent social protest.

During the early 1960s, King and the SCLC initiated a number of peaceful protests against segregated institutions. In May 1963,

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## Americans Celebrate Achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Birmingham, Alabama, Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor unleashed police dogs and high-pressure fire hoses against peaceful demonstrators, many of them schoolchildren. The images horrified the nation. King was arrested during these demonstrations and from his jail cell produced the Letter From a Birmingham Jail (<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Jun/08-999557.html>), in which he argued that one who breaks an unjust law to arouse the consciousness of his community "is in reality expressing the highest respect for law," provided he acts "openly, lovingly and with a willingness to accept the penalty." That August, African-American leaders organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom ([http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history\\_geography\\_and\\_population/civil\\_rights/african\\_american\\_rights/march\\_on\\_washington.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/civil_rights/african_american_rights/march_on_washington.html)). Here, before an estimated quarter million civil rights supporters gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, King offered one of the most powerful orations in American history. Generations of schoolchildren have learned by heart lines from the I Have a Dream speech, in which King prayed for the day when people would "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

The images from Birmingham and Washington helped crystallize sup-

port for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/laws/majorlaw/civilr19.htm>), signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964. In 1965, the violent Selma, Alabama, police response to a vot-



**Georgetown University's 'Let Freedom Ring' choir stands in front of a picture of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the celebration honoring King at the Kennedy Center. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)**

ing rights march sparked a similar surge in support for King, the civil rights movement and for legislation guaranteeing the right of political participation. Consequently, the Voting Rights Act (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/civilrights/votingsf.htm>) became law on August 6, 1965.

With the passage of these civil rights laws, King continued to employ his strategy of nonviolent social protest even as some younger leaders at times argued for more radical means. King also broadened his agenda to encompass efforts to focus attention on African-American poverty. King was in Memphis, Tennessee, in support of striking black garbage workers when, on April 4, 1968, an assassin's bullet cut him down at the age of 39.

Americans honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with a national holiday celebrated on the third Monday of each January, and soon by a national monument (<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Aug/26-453399.html>), to be constructed in direct sight of the Lincoln Memorial, where King inspired Americans with his dreams of racial justice and equality. Countless individuals and organizations, including The King Center (<http://www.thekingcenter.org/>), in Atlanta, carry on his work.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

## First Lady Laura Bush Heads U.S. Delegation to Liberian Inaugural

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The first lady of the United States, Laura Bush, will lead the U.S. delegation to the January 16 inauguration of Liberian President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female president.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will accompany the first lady on the visit, which is intended to symbolize Liberia's standing as a Bush administration foreign policy priority and its "special relationship" with the United States, says Assistant Secretary of State Jendayi Frazer.

"President Bush is sending this high-level delegation to underscore the importance of Liberia's transformation from war to peace and towards a democratic consolidation for the Liberian people, the continent of Africa and the world at large," she told reporters at a January 13 State Department briefing.

Frazer called the selection of Africa's first elected female president an "inspiration for young girls and women across the continent."

The visit will mark Rice's second trip to Africa as secretary of state and follows on her trip to Senegal and Sudan in July 2005.

### U.S.-LIBERIA RELATIONS

Frazer reminded reporters of the "special relationship" that exists between the United States and Liberia, noting that President Bush sent U.S. diplomats and military

forces to try to help stabilize the country in 2003, "when Liberia was at the height of its 14-year civil war."

A further demonstration of the special relationship, she said, is

In addition to traveling to Liberia, Frazer told reporters, first lady Laura Bush will travel to Ghana and Nigeria.

In Ghana, the first lady will emphasize the U.S.-Africa partnership in education -- both academic and health education -- that aims to give children the foundation they need to succeed as adults and contribute to their communities.

In Nigeria, Frazer said, the first lady will concentrate on efforts to help women and girls. "The president and Mrs. Bush have understood that ... providing girls and women the opportunity to attend school [gives them] valuable literacy skills and HIV/AIDS treatment so that they are empowered to become successful women and contributing members to their democratic societies," she said.

While in Liberia, Frazer said, the first lady will touch on the issues of "reconciliation, youth education and youth employment," while Rice will emphasize the importance of

regional stability, good economic management and long-term stability.

### AID AND TRADE

Regarding U.S. assistance to Liberia, Frazer said that of the more than \$840 million provided to Liberia in the past year, more than



**Mrs. Laura Bush, center, and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, left-foreground, congratulate Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Monrovia, Liberia, at her inauguration Monday, Jan. 16, 2006.**

the fact that the U.S. Congress appropriated more than \$840 million last year to help reconstruct Liberia. That, she said, also helps reflect "the partnership" that exists among the United States, Liberia and regional countries like Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal, which have provided peacekeeping forces and have helped mediate to end Liberia's 14-year civil war.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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## Bush Honors Civil Rights Activists on U.S. National Holiday . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

to her strength of character, but to remember the ideal of active citizenship," said the president at Georgetown University's "Let Freedom Ring" celebration.

Bush cited King's efforts to convince Congress to pass civil rights legislation during a time of discrimination and segregation against blacks in the United States. He also recalled Rosa Parks's memorable act of refusing

to give up her seat in a bus to a white man.

"When they made their appeal to equal rights, they aimed straight for America's soul, and they roused a dozing conscience of a complacent nation," the president said.

Bush added that progress still needs to be made, and that both King and Parks, for all their hard work, should best be remembered by continuing the work they

paved, and called on Congress must renew the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For additional information about the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., see related article. (<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2006/Jan/11-901573.html>)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## First Lady Laura Bush Heads U.S. Delegation to Liberian Inaugural . . .

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\$520 million has gone to support the U.N. peacekeeping mission there, UNMIL (United Nations Mission in Liberia). Another \$60 million has been provided to train and equip the Liberian police and military, and another \$90 million to refugee assistance.

Frazer said she expects that Liberia will "continue to be a priority for President Bush's Africa policy, and ... significant resources will continue to go toward Liberia."

But "more important than U.S. foreign aid," she said, is the restoration of Liberia's economy and infrastructure "so that Liberia can benefit from trade and from investment. That is really going to be the emphasis ... to get them standing on their own two feet and to encourage American investors to go in and help Liberia to re-establish its productive sectors."

### MOVING PAST THE TAYLOR YEARS

Asked about former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, Frazer said

the United States continues to believe that Taylor should be held accountable for atrocities he committed in Sierra Leone. "He was one of the major sources of instability in the region," she said of Taylor.

In a previous conversation between Rice and Liberia's president-elect, the secretary emphasized U.S. support for sending Taylor to the special court set up jointly by the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone, Frazer said. "We are working with all the region to try to bring Charles Taylor to justice, including Nigeria," she added.

Continuing on that point, Frazer said, "We took as a positive sign that at the U.N. General Assembly [Nigerian] President [Olusegun] Obasanjo -- in his speech to the General Assembly -- also said that Charles Taylor should be returned [from Nigeria] to the Special Court" for Sierra Leone.

The mandate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone is try those who bear the greatest responsibility for violations committed in Sierra

Leone since November 30, 1996, in accordance with international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law.

"The United Nations Security Council resolution that the United States helped to draft gives the UNMIL the authority, if Charles Taylor should return to Liberia, to arrest him and take him to the Sierra Leone Special Court," Frazer told reporters. "So we have the instruments in place to be able to pursue bringing him to justice and making him accountable for the atrocities."

With the election of Johnson-Sirleaf, Frazer said, the Liberian people have voted for freedom and voted to have a voice in their government, and "Charles Taylor represents the exact opposite" of that. Frazer said Taylor's influence on Liberia is "extremely limited" and that he has not hindered the country's democratic progress.

Frazer said Nigerian soldiers are still in Liberia as peacekeepers and that President Obasanjo has "as

*(Continued on page 10)*

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## Darfur Aid "Too Little Too Late," U.N. Envoy to Sudan Says

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- Describing the three-year-old international peace strategy for Darfur as "too little too late," the U.N. special envoy for Sudan said that much more must be done to stop the atrocities and bring peace to the troubled region.

Jan Pronk, the secretary-general's special representative for Sudan, told the Security Council January 13 that for the past three years, as the killings and ethnic cleansing continued in Darfur, "all we did was picking up the pieces and muddling through, doing too little too late."

Even though the ultimate responsibility lies with the perpetrators, the international community "should do more to stop them, to end impunity and to offer a perspective to the children of Darfur that they can live without fear," he said during a public meeting with the Security Council.

Pronk called the security situation "chaotic." The Jingaweit militia have reached their goal, he said. "Many areas have been cleansed. They have free passage in the countryside. Millions of villagers sitting in camps are too afraid to leave. Terror continues."

At least once a month groups of 500 to 1,000 militiamen on camel and horseback attack villages, killing dozens of people and terrorizing the others, the special envoy said.

Despite Security Council demands, Khartoum has not dis-

armed the Jingaweit and other militia, he said.

Pronk said that a force much larger than the current African Union peacekeeping operation is needed. The new force should be "present everywhere where people



**Jan Pronk, Secretary-General's  
Special Representative for Sudan**

may be attacked," be strong and able to defend itself and deter attacks on civilians, be able to disarm the militias and Jingaweit, and stay in the province at least three or four years after the signing of a peace agreement.

The new peacekeeping force should be part of a unified approach to Darfur that includes humanitarian, political, police, legal, human rights, reconstruction and economic development components backed by sanctions on troop movements and arms deliveries, as well as on those who

have caused the atrocities, he said.

Pronk said that at the AU-sponsored peace negotiations in Abuja, Nigeria, the parties have "lost all sense of urgency and do not really care about deadlines. They talk but do not reach results.

"One wonders whether the negotiations really care about the fate of the 3 million war-affected people," he added, saying that the talks should not adjourn in anticipation of an eighth round.

As was the case in the North-South peace talks, Pronk said, the parties in Darfur should agree to a cease-fire while continuing negotiations.

### SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFED IN PRIVATE SESSION

Pronk and AU negotiator Salim Salim also met with the 15-nation Security Council in private session after the public meeting.

Security Council President Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania said that council members "see the need for reinvigorating the discussions and injecting a sense of urgency, which should include, among other things, putting pressure on the parties concerned."

Talking with journalists after the private meeting, Mahiga said that his statement to the press should be seen as a message to the parties and the international community for now. However, at some point, "we may have to adopt another resolution," he said. "But this will depend on developments

*(Continued on page 20)*



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## United Nations Discussing Worsening Conditions in Darfur

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- The deteriorating situation in Darfur once again has moved to the top of the international agenda as the U.N. Security Council, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the African Union examine how to protect and provide humanitarian aid for more than 3 million people caught in the continuous fighting between rebels and government-sponsored forces.

Annan said that killings, rapes and general insecurity for displaced civilians continue, and the situation has forced the United Nations to remove some staff members from the area and has cut U.N. access to many in need.

"It wasn't long ago that we were feeding a million people and the whole world was focused on this. Today we are feeding 3 million people and may have to do it for another year and it is off the front pages of the newspapers," Annan told journalists January 12 after having private talks with the 15 members of the Security Council.

The secretary-general stressed that both the rebels and government are violating the cease-fire agreement and actively attacking people in Darfur.

"What we need to do is to find a way to improve immediate security, working with the African Union [AU] forces, and provide logistical and financial support to be able to strengthen security on the ground," he said. "We need to energize the peace process in Abuja

because the long-term solution only lies at the negotiating table."

The Security Council has scheduled both public and private meetings on Darfur for January 13.

The international community also must press the Sudanese government to honor its commitment to protect its own people and help with the humanitarian assistance, the secretary-general said. The re-



**U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan speaking to the press at U.N. Headquarters in New York on 01/12/06. REUTERS/Seth Wenig**

bels, he added, have to take seriously peace negotiations being held in Abuja, Nigeria.

At a meeting in Darfur January 12, the African Union said that resources for its peacekeepers now in Darfur will run out in March, but it is willing to keep its force in the province for another nine months to 12 months, provided the international community supplies sufficient resources and logistical support.

Annan said that the international

community "cannot let that situation go unredressed."

In September 2005, the U.N. Summit adopted a resolution acknowledging that the international community has the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Darfur "is a challenge" to that commitment, the secretary-general said.

Potential methods to enhance protection include a donor conference similar to one held in May 2005 to muster help for the AU. Another possibility is using a larger, more robust and mobile U.N. peacekeeping force when the mandate of the AU force expires, Annan said. In any event, he added, the African Union will need money and support beyond March until the United Nations could take over.

The African Union needs money, he said. "They need it quickly."

The United Nations envisions a different peacekeeping force from the one now deployed in Darfur. The expanded force would need to include troops from outside Africa. The Sudanese government, which has objected to peacekeepers from outside Africa, will have to cooperate with the United Nations on that issue, Annan said.

"We've gone beyond that now," he said.

"It's a large territory. Whatever force is there has to be more mobile, has to have tactical air support, helicopters and ability to respond quickly. We will need very sophisticated equipment and support," Annan said.♦



## U.S. Law Enforcement Steps Up Hunt for Human Traffickers

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reports it has made 5,400 arrests and obtained 2,300 convictions in cases of human trafficking and smuggling since 2003.

The January 9 announcement came as President Bush signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, renewing the U. S. commitment to eradicating the crime of human smuggling. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jan/11-191763.html>).)

ICE has played a key role in human trafficking investigation and prosecution, in partnership with local and international law enforcement agencies.

The agency reports that investigations into trafficking have increased by more than 400 percent since 2005.

For additional information, see Human Trafficking ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/human\\_trafficking.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html)).

The text of the ICE announcement follows:

(begin text)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
News Release  
January 10, 2006

ICE REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICK-

ING VICTIMS, BRING PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE

TVPRA, signed today by President Bush, allows ICE to continue its significant law enforcement progress against traffickers

Washington, DC - With today's signing of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA - H.R. 972) by President Bush, ICE reaffirmed its law enforcement commitment to identify victims of human trafficking and

and seizing their illicit profits."

In the last several years, ICE has played a significant role in fighting human trafficking.

The number of ICE investigations against traffickers increased by more than 400 percent in the first six months of FY 2005, compared to the total number of cases in FY 2004. In fact, since the creation of ICE in March 2003, investigations into human trafficking and the related crime of human smuggling, have resulted in more than 5,400 arrests, 2,800 criminal indictments, and 2,300 criminal convictions.

ICE holds the current directorship of the Human Smuggling & Trafficking Center, an interagency joint intelligence fusion center focused specifically on human smuggling and human trafficking. Other DHS entities, the Department of State, the Department of Justice and members of the intelligence community participate in the Center.

The amount of assets seized from human smugglers and human trafficking organizations has gone from almost none before 2003 to nearly \$27 million in 2005.

By aggressively enforcing the child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act, ICE is working to reduce the demand for trafficked children overseas by American pedophiles who travel abroad to sexually exploit children. Since



**Mike Price being arrested for human smuggling. Mike Price, 53, and his wife Fabiola del Carmen Moguel de Price, 39, and Sam Jarvis, 52, headed two separate organizations that generated more than \$1.6 million in smuggling fees between March 2003 and October 2005**

bring the perpetrators of this horrific crime to justice.

"Human traffickers are violent criminals that operate without regard to basic human dignity. They are motivated by pure greed," said Deputy Assistant Secretary John P. Clark. "By working with law enforcement partners in the United States and abroad, we are identifying and assisting their victims, shutting down these organizations

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## Bush Proclaims January 16 Religious Freedom Day

Asserting that "the right to religious freedom is a foundation of America," President Bush designated January 16 as Religious Freedom Day in a proclamation released by the White House January 13.

The president called on Americans to "reflect on the great blessing of religious liberty, endeavor to preserve this freedom for future generations, and commemorate this day with appropriate events and activities in their schools, places of worship, neighborhoods, and homes."

In the proclamation, the president cited U.S. efforts to advance religious freedom around the world, and praised progress made in recent years, particularly in Vietnam, Laos, India, Georgia and the United Arab Emirates.

For additional information on U.S. policies, see International Religious Freedom ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human\\_rights/intl\\_religious\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/intl_religious_freedom.html)).

Following is the text of the proclamation:

(begin text)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY,  
2006  
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
A PROCLAMATION

The right to religious freedom is a foundation of America. On Religious Freedom Day, our Nation celebrates the passage of the 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and the protection of religious freedom in the First Amend-

ment to the United States Constitution.

Our Founding Fathers knew the importance of freedom of religion to a stable democracy, and our Constitution protects individuals' rights to worship as they choose. We reject religious discrimination in every form, and we continue our efforts to oppose prejudice and to counter any infringements on religious freedom.

Today, we are also working to advance freedom of religion abroad. The Department of State's Office of International Religious Freedom plays an important role in these efforts, advocating for religious freedom and actively working against religious persecution around the world. In recent years, we have seen important progress, including in Vietnam, Laos, India, Georgia, and the United Arab Emirates, and with the release of many individuals in countries throughout the world who had been imprisoned because of their faith. By helping to secure the religious freedom of people in other countries, we promote the spread of liberty and human dignity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2006, as Religious Freedom Day. I call on all Americans to reflect on the great blessing of religious liberty, endeavor to preserve this freedom for future generations, and commemorate this day with appropriate events and activities in their schools, places of

worship, neighborhoods, and homes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

(end text) ♦

### First Lady Laura Bush Heads U.S. Delegation to Liberian Inaugural . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

much a stake and interest in Liberia's future ... as any other country." Thus, she said, the Nigerian president "will do the right thing in regard to Charles Taylor at the right time. ... Certainly, the United States thinks now is the right time," she added.

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/01/20060113-3.html>) of Laura Bush's January 13 CNN interview on the upcoming trip is available on the White House Web site.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

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## Bush Explains U.S. Goals, Methods in War on Terror

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington — A day after speaking to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the nation's capital, President Bush took his conversation with the American people about the war on terrorism to Louisville, Kentucky, talking to and answering questions from his audience.

He expressed a willingness to answer questions about domestic as well as international topics, but the president confined his opening remarks to the War on Terror and U.S. efforts and goals in Iraq. The war against terrorism, he said, "came to us as a result of actions an enemy took on September the 11th, 2001 ... [a]nd I vowed that we'd find those killers and bring them to justice.

"And that's what we're doing," Bush continued. "We're on the hunt for an enemy that ... cannot stand freedom ... [and] does not believe in free speech, free religion, free dissent, does not believe in women's rights, and they have a desire to impose their ideology on much of the world."

Bush then explained the U.S. attack on Afghanistan's Taliban regime as a direct consequence of his publicly stated willingness to hold those who gave aid to terrorists equally condemnable with them.

"We took action because the Taliban refused to expel al-Qaida," he said.

Turning to Iraq, Bush said Saddam Hussein was "a sworn enemy of the United States," his regime was on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terror, and he had defied more than a dozen binding U.N. Security Council resolutions. Hussein, Bush said, had the choice,

and not only got privileged status, but they were the all-powerful"; and al-Qaida and its affiliates.

To combat these three groups, Bush said, the U.S. and Iraqi governments are applying a three-pronged strategy: to marginalize and isolate the dissenters and re-



**Supporters listen to U.S. President George W. Bush (L) as he delivers his comments about the U.S. military involvement in Iraq at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky January 11. REUTERS/Larry Downing**

but "chose war, and he got war. And he's not in power, and the world is better off for it," he said.

The U.S. goal in Iraq, Bush said, is "nothing short of victory." That victory will come, he said, "when Iraq is no longer a safe haven for the terrorists [and] when the Iraqis are able to defend their democracy."

Bush characterized the enemy in Iraq as comprising three groups: Sunni rejectionists who benefited by Saddam's favoring of Sunnis over Shi'ites; the loyalists, who were "the thugs and people that basically robbed the country blind,

rejectionists through the political process; to train Iraqis for military and police work to use force against their enemies; and to rebuild the economy, including a substantial effort to accomplish small, local projects. Local projects, he said, "empower those ... willing to take a risk for democracy with the capacity to say, 'follow me, your life is going to be better.'"

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/nationalsecurity/>) of Bush's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*



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## Rumsfeld Says Unconventional Enemies Seek Powerful Weapons

Washington -- Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says military and civilian leaders share "a great sense of urgency" as they confront enemies who seek increasingly powerful weapons as part of their arsenal of terrorism.

Recognizing the difficulty of trying to defend "against every conceivable type of asymmetric attack" around the world -- 24 hours a day -- requires the complete cooperation of many nations, he told reporters at a Pentagon news conference January 12.

That full cooperation is needed "for us to do almost anything in this global war on terror, effectively," the secretary said, including working to close the bank accounts terrorists need to fund their operations.

He spoke to reporters following three days of consultations with his regional commanders about future military planning contingencies.

Rumsfeld and his commanders discussed how to address military requirements in the ongoing struggle against violent extremists. Hostile forces may be located in nations that are friendly or unfriendly, he said.

"Some of those countries have well-developed military capabilities that can be brought to bear and some ... lack well-developed military capabilities," the secretary

added.

No one knows for sure, now, what decisions will turn out to be decisive in a future conflict, Rumsfeld said. "Our responsibility is to minimize the limits we place on future strategies, [and] maximize the flexibility we make possible," he said, "because tomorrow's threats are certain to be significant and unpredictable."



**Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, right, accompanied by Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Peter Pace meets with reporters at the Pentagon in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006 to discuss the situation in Iraq. (AP Photo/Heesoon Yim)**

Military leaders cannot be sure of what kinds of wars will be fought in the decades ahead, but "we do know what our priorities have to be, and certainly they include preparing for unforeseen eventualities from full-scale combat operations to counterinsurgency missions, stability operations and homeland defense," he said. The Defense Department, he added, must be organized to battle against "agile and unconventional enemies that are tied to no nation-state, are un-

encumbered by bureaucracies, and use terror, propaganda and indiscriminate violence to try and exhaust our will and advance their radical aims."

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), the first to be issued since the war on terrorism began in 2001, "will set conditions that will encourage improvisation and flexibility," Rumsfeld said. The QDR will be sent to Congress in February.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine General Peter Pace, said he and Rumsfeld concluded their consultations with regional commanders with dozens of pages of notes on issues for additional deliberations. Rumsfeld said the subject of intelligence was discussed extensively. Another subject was the recognition that at any time, U.S. military personnel must stand ready to serve as soldiers, diplomats, en-

gineers, law enforcement officers or humanitarians, he said.

Rumsfeld was asked about an article written by a British Army officer who worked in Iraq that criticizes the cultural insensitivity, and other attributes, demonstrated by U.S. Army personnel in the battle against Iraq's insurgency. The secretary said he had not had a chance to read Brigadier Nigel Aylwin-Foster's commentary, but he said it would be a mistake to think

*(Continued on page 20)*

## Report Projects Increase in Use of Biotech Crops in Next Decade

By Andrzej Zwaniecki  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Global planting of genetically modified (GM) crops is likely to grow even faster in the next decade than the double-digit annual rate of the past 10 years, according to a new independent report.

The report predicts with "cautious optimism" that GM planting will accelerate as the benefits of such crops become recognized more broadly, as currently available crops are adopted more broadly, and as new crops become available.

The report, *Global Status of Biotech/Genetically Modified Crops in 2005*, was published January 11 by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), an international not-for-profit organization that promotes agricultural biotechnology in developing countries.

GM crops, with traits such as improved resistance to destructive insects and increased tolerance of herbicides, are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly and produce greater yields than traditional crops, according to many farmers and experts.

The expansion of acreage designated for GM crops also will be

driven by China's expected adoption of genetically modified rice in the near future, demand for more nutritional GM food and feed, and the anticipated introduction of novel crops with qualities desirable in the production of medicines and biofuels, the report said.

In 2005, 8.5 million farmers grew GM crops on 222 million acres, according to the report.

founder of ISAAA, told reporters during a January 11 teleconference that the continued increase in the number of countries growing GM crops -- from six in 1996 to 21 in 2005 -- indicates that the substantial benefits associated with these crops are becoming more obvious.

He said that even Europe, which has so far mostly resisted GM crops, is likely to begin accepting them more broadly in the next decade although rather slowly.

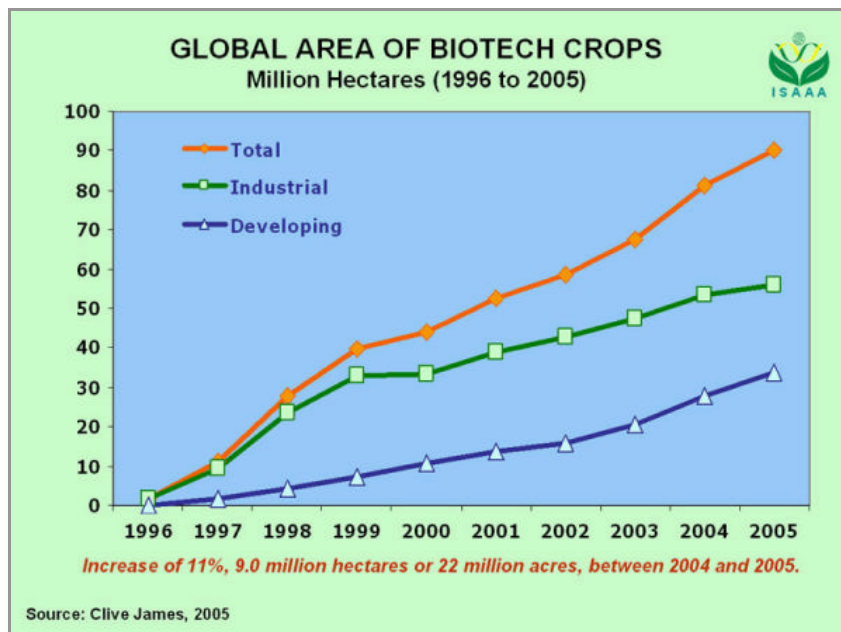
"It won't happen overnight," he said.

As evidence of growing acceptance of GM crops in Europe, James cited resumed planting of GM maize in France and Portugal in 2005 and the adoption of that crop for the first time in the Czech Republic.

These developments have brought the total number of European countries dedicated to the commercialization of GM maize to five.

James said that Bulgaria and Romania, which are seeking to join the European Union, also grow GM crops, with Romania among the largest producers of such crops in the world. The United States leads the top GM crops producers, followed by Argentina, Brazil, Canada and China.

James said developing countries have shown increasing interest in



ISAAA said that GM acreage growth of 11 percent in 2005 was down sharply from 20 percent in 2004 and 15 percent in 2003, as debates about the benefits and perceived risks of GM foods continue.

Friends of the Earth, a nonprofit group that argues GM crops can be harmful to human health and the environment, said the report ignored the fact that a growing number of countries actually were banning GM products

But Clive James, chairman and

(Continued on page 14)

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## Report Projects Increase in Use of Biotech Crops . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

GM crops. Although such countries represent only one-third of the global GM acreage, from 2004 to 2005 they expanded GM acreage almost five times faster than industrialized nations, and the trend is likely to continue in the next decade, he said.

In an ISAAA news release, James said that GM crops have helped to lift 7.7 million subsistence farmers in 11 developing countries out of poverty by increasing their incomes. The potential to alleviate poverty and hunger in the developing world in the next decade is even greater, he added.

"The broader commercialization of biotech rice, the most important food crop of the world's 1.3 billion poor and the 850 million hungry and malnourished, can further this effort," he said. "Biotech rice could make a substantial contribu-

tion to the formidable U.N. Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition by 50 percent in 2015."

In Africa, where such a reduction would make the biggest difference, only South Africa grows GM crops. James said that the resistance to GM foods from major European food importers explains to a large degree why African governments and farmers are reluctant to embrace the new technology. But he said that some countries such as Egypt, Kenya, Burkina Faso and Mali that are considering adopting GM maize or cotton face other big challenges, including a lack of financing.

Nevertheless, James predicted "significant growth" in GM crops in Africa in the next 10 years as these obstacles are overcome and new generations of GM crops with characteristics particularly attrac-

tive to the region become available. He said that the commercialization of drought-resistant crops expected in 2010-2012 will be particularly important in this respect.

The texts of the news release and executive summary of the report, as well as related tables, can be viewed on the ISAAA Web site (<http://www.isaaa.org/>).

For more information, see related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/1005/ijee/hamilton.htm>) on GM crops as well as the collection Agricultural Biotechnology ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/biotechnology.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/biotechnology.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## U.S. Law Enforcement Steps Up Hunt for Human Traffickers . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

ICE was created, more than a dozen child sex tourists seeking to exploit children in eight separate countries have been arrested and now face justice in the U.S.

ICE is also assisting victims. In FY 2004, 93 percent of the total Continued Presence (CP) applications, a designation that allows alien victims of human trafficking crimes to remain legally in the U.S. while the case is being adjudicated and the victim is applying for a T-Visa, submitted on behalf of trafficking victims in the United States

were the result of ICE investigations. In FY 2005, ICE investigations accounted for 85 percent of the total number of CP applications.

Among other provisions, the TVPRA authorizes \$36 million dollars over the next two years for ICE investigations into severe forms of human trafficking, allowing ICE to continue with the significant progress it has made in the last two years.

# ICE #

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

(end text)

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## Rice Calls for Security Council To Take Up Iranian Nuclear Issue

By David Shelby  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice joined her European counterparts January 12 in calling for a referral of the Iranian nuclear issue to the U.N. Security Council.

Iran's decision to remove the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) seals from its nuclear research facilities "demonstrates that it has chosen confrontation with the international community over cooperation and negotiation," Rice said.

"We agree that the Iranian regime's defiant resumption of uranium enrichment work leaves the EU with no choice but to request an emergency meeting of the IAEA board of governors. That meeting would be to report Iran's noncompliance with its safeguards obligations to the U.N. Security Council," she said.

Foreign ministers of Germany, France and Great Britain (collectively known as the EU-3) and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana issued a statement January 12 saying EU-3 negotiations with Iran have come to a dead end. "We believe the time has now come for the Security Council to become involved," they said in the joint statement.

The Iranian government triggered the current crisis by resuming its nuclear research activities after a two-year moratorium designed to facilitate negotiations with the EU-3 over Iran's nuclear program. Rice said that by its actions, Iran unilaterally has destroyed the basis for those nego-

tiations.

The secretary said that all the major world powers, including Russia and China, are concerned by Iran's decision to restart its nuclear research in the face of strong in-



**US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice takes questions during a press conference at the State Department 12 January.**

ternational opposition. "I think it's very clear that everybody believes that a very important threshold has been crossed here," she said.

Rice added that Iran has a history of hiding its nuclear activities and defying international monitoring efforts, thereby creating suspicion that its nuclear ambitions are not peaceful.

"The Security Council is a very important step because it brings a certain weight to the IAEA requirements that is currently not there,"

Rice said. She expressed the hope that the U.N. Security Council, with its ability to impose sanctions and pursue other punitive actions, would be able to demand answers and obtain clarifications that the Iranians have refused to provide to the IAEA.

Rice said that the Iranian regime has been moving toward greater confrontation with the international community over this issue for a long time despite numerous diplomatic overtures. She noted that in March 2005 the United States offered to lift its objection to Iranian accession to the World Trade Organization and allow trade in spare parts for airplanes as goodwill measures in support of the EU-3's negotiations.

"This was a time when Iran, I think, could see the international community coming together around a strategy, that while recognizing that this was not an issue about their rights to peaceful nuclear energy, would have given them access to peaceful nuclear energy. We have been on a course ever since then where they've not taken repeated opportunities to take the world up on that," she said.

Iran's recent decision to revive its research activities follows an August 2005 decision to resume uranium conversion activities at its Isfahan nuclear facility, a move that also met with broad international condemnation.

Rice placed the blame for the escalating diplomatic crisis squarely on the Iranian regime, saying that the Iranian people deserve a better government that would allow them

*(Continued on page 20)*

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## Nations Convene To Mobilize Pandemic Flu Preparedness

By Charlene Porter  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Influenza convenes in Beijing on January 17-18, with a goal of winning commitments of \$1 billion or more to help combat outbreaks of bird flu and avert the emergence of a human influenza pandemic.

The government of China, the World Bank and the European Commission are jointly sponsoring the meeting; donor nations and affected nations are attending.

The World Bank has conducted a study estimating the costs of preparedness at between \$1.2 billion and \$1.4 billion.

In 2005, the United States earmarked more than \$50 million to help other nations control avian influenza and prepare for a possible human influenza pandemic.

In legislation signed at the end of December 2005, President Bush approved almost \$280 million in additional foreign assistance to help other nations build capacity to detect and contain disease and improve animal and human health care systems. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jan/03-762801.html>).)

A U.S. delegation will attend the Beijing meeting.

U.N. Coordinator for Avian Influenza David Nabarro said it is a "positive development" that the United States has pledged a "pretty significant appropriation for the international aspects of influenza."



**James Adams, left, World Bank Vice President, and Dr. David Nabarro, the U.N. Coordinator on avian and human influenza, attend the opening ceremony the opening ceremony of the international pledging conference on Avian and Human influenza in Beijing, Tuesday Jan. 17, 2006.**  
(AP Photo/Michael Reynolds, POOL)

Speaking at a U.N. headquarters briefing January 11, Nabarro said, "When the United States takes the lead on an issue, the rest of the world certainly sits up and takes notice."

Nabarro predicted the Beijing meeting would end with donor pledges in excess of \$1 billion, but he also said fund raising will have to continue.

"I know the costs will go up," he said, if a full blown human influenza pandemic is spawned by the

animal disease that has reached epidemic proportions across South-east Asia in the last two years.

The strain of avian influenza has made at least 150 people sick over the last two years, killing 78, according to the most current accounting from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Virtually all those people were infected through some contact with infected birds. International health officials fear that this virulent form of bird flu – a strain known as H5N1 – will change to become contagious among humans, making conditions right for pandemic.

### RAPID PROGRESS

A human pandemic could cost millions of lives and produce enormous social and economic upheaval,

and that is what has made international policymakers intensify their focus on the issue over the last several months.

President Bush urged high-level attention to pandemic preparedness during a speech to the U.N. General Assembly in September 2005, and shortly after formed an International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, which now has more than 100 member nations. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Sep/22-113180.html>).)

*(Continued on page 19)*

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## Polio Eradication in Sight Despite 2005 Setbacks

By Charlene Porter  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The occurrence of polio around the world increased by 43 percent in 2005 as contrasted with 2004, but those involved in the eradication effort express renewed optimism that the international campaign is poised for greater success in 2006.

The 2005 global case count unveiled by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) January 10 reports 1,802 polio cases in 2005 compared to 1,255 cases in 2004.

Nigeria experienced more cases of the paralyzing disease – 703 – than any other single country. Nigeria suspended childhood immunizations against polio for a year beginning in 2003, and thus the virus was able to establish itself better and travel to other countries.

The Nigerian poliovirus traveled to 18 countries ultimately, reintroducing the disease in some countries that previously had been declared polio free.

For the first time, in 2005, “polio-free countries that had imported virus had more cases of polio than did the polio-endemic [naturally occurring in the environment] countries,” said Dr. David Heyman, the representative for polio eradication at the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO is a partner in the GPEI, along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International and UNICEF.

“But that’s last year, and this year we’re better equipped with these outbreaks,” Heyman said in

a Washington File interview from WHO headquarters in Geneva.

“Sudan has stopped [the transmission of polio],” he added, “Yemen has almost stopped and Indonesia has almost stopped.”

After Nigeria, Yemen and Indonesia had the largest numbers of polio cases in 2005 -- 478 and 297, respectively.

Most of the countries that experienced a reintroduction of polio have managed to regain control of the situation through massive vaccination campaigns, Heyman said. East Africa is the one remaining region still experiencing transmission of the disease, especially in Ethiopia and Somalia.

### OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR 2006

Heyman is optimistic about GPEI’s ability to make greater progress against the disease in 2006, with a “good chance of interrupting transmission of polio in all countries this year, except possibly Nigeria.”

Children have not been immunized routinely against polio in Nigeria, Heyman said, a factor that allows the poliovirus to remain endemic.

The GPEI campaign also may be able to turn another corner in 2006, with the possible declaration that Egypt and Niger are polio

free. The virus has been considered endemic in both countries.

The monovalent vaccine is one reason for the recent successes in beating the poliovirus. This is a vaccine designed to protect against only one of the three types of poliovirus.

Recent research has revealed the success of this immunization scheme, as contrasted with previous use of the trivalent (protecting against all three types of poliovirus) vaccine.

The monovalent vaccine is designed to target only the particular type of virus that occurs in a given endemic area. The trivalent vaccine generated an immune response against all three wild viruses but prompted some competition among the viruses that could result in an unbalanced immune response.

With its capability to confer an enhanced immunity, the monovalent vaccine was used widely for the first time in 2005. New types of the vaccines are in production, Heyman said, to interrupt more rapidly the strains left in the world.

The international community has been engaged in the global campaign against this childhood disease since 1988. When the effort began, more than 300,000 cases of polio occurred each year worldwide.

For additional information on U.S. and international efforts to prevent disease, see Health ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/health.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/health.html)). ♦





## Earthquakes Killed Nearly 90,000 in 2005, Experts Say

Although there were fewer deaths worldwide in 2005 due to earthquakes, more than 89,353 serious injuries were reported, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and confirmed by the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In a January 13 press release, the USGS said nearly all fatalities for 2005 – more than 87,000 – occurred when a 7.6-magnitude earthquake hit Pakistan October 8.

In 2004, the third deadliest earthquake year on record, more than 283,000 died in the December 26, 2004, 9.0-magnitude Sumatra quake and resulting tsunami.

This event was likely the trigger for an 8.7-magnitude quake that struck the adjacent zone of Sumatra on March 28, 2005. This earthquake left 1,313 people dead and was the largest temblor for 2005.

The deadliest quake of 2005 was the 7.6-magnitude event in northern Pakistan, which killed 87,351

and injured more than 69,000. Extensive damage occurred in the Muzaffarabad area of Kashmir, where entire villages were destroyed, and at Uri, where 80 percent of the town was devastated.

The most noteworthy U.S. quake occurred offshore Eureka, California. This 7.2-magnitude event on June 15, 2005, was felt widely

available on the USGS Web site.

The USGS locates about 80 earthquakes each day or nearly 29,000 a year. On average, 18 major earthquakes (with magnitudes of 7.0 to 7.9) and one great earthquake (8.0-magnitude or higher) occur each year worldwide.

Several million earthquakes occur in the world each year, but many go undetected because they occur in remote areas or have very small magnitudes.

Although significant progress has been achieved in earthquake research and mitigation, earthquake risk is still high, especially in places in the world where population growth and lack of earthquake-resistant structural design standards have

put more and more people at risk.

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**Buildings destroyed in Taiwan earthquake in 1999.**

onshore and triggered tsunami warnings in several communities from Washington state to Mexico along the Pacific coast.

A complete list ([http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/eq\\_depot/2005/](http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/eq_depot/2005/)) of noteworthy seismic events for 2005 is

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## Climate Change Drives Amphibian Extinctions, Scientists Say

Results of a new study funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) offer the first clear proof that global warming is causing outbreaks of an infectious disease that is wiping out frog populations and driving many species to extinction.

According to a January 11 NSF press release, the study shows how the warming may alter the dynamics of a skin fungus that is fatal to amphibians.

The study results come at a time of growing concern about the future of amphibians.

The 2004 Global Amphibian Assessment found that nearly a third of the world's approximately 6,000 species of frogs, toads and salamanders face extinction – a figure far greater than that for any other group of animals.

The climate-driven fungal disease, the authors say, has hundreds of species around the world teetering on the brink of extinction or already has wiped them out.

"Disease is the bullet that's killing the frogs," said J. Alan Pounds, the study's lead scientist. Pounds is affiliated with the Tropical Science Center's Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve in Costa Rica.

"But climate change is pulling the trigger," he added. "Global warming is wreaking havoc on amphibians, and soon will cause staggering losses of biodiversity."

The decline of amphibians in apparently pristine, protected habitats in Costa Rica and elsewhere has perplexed conservation biologists since 1990, when the problem first was recognized.

At least 110 species of brightly colored harlequin frogs once lived near streams in the tropics of Central and South America, but about two-thirds vanished in the 1980s and 1990s.

Using records of sea-surface and air temperatures, Pounds and colleagues show that harlequin frogs are disappearing in near lockstep

with changing climate conditions in their environment.

According to the scientists, Earth's rising temperatures enhance cloud cover on tropical mountains, leading to cooler days and warmer nights, both of which favor proliferation of the chytrid fungus.

The U.S. government has invested more than \$5 billion in research for a better understanding of the causes of climate change and in advanced energy technologies to reduce the production of greenhouse gases. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0605/ijge/marburger.htm>)).

For additional information, see Climate Change ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/climate\\_change.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/climate_change.html)).

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## Nations Convene To Mobilize Pandemic Flu Preparedness . . .

*(Continued from page 16)*

At his January 11 briefing, Nabarro said he has seen much activity since he stepped into the position in late September 2005.

"Vietnam has made great steps forward in tackling avian influenza," Nabarro said. Vietnam is one of the most severely affected nations, having experienced more human deaths – 42 – than any other single nation.

Nabarro also praised China's progress in taking action against avian influenza in animals and in agricultural settings and the possibility of pandemic in human populations.

Preparedness activities are also getting attention in what Nabarro described as "fragile nations" with few resources.

For more information on the disease and efforts to combat it, see Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Sep/22-113180.html>).

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Rumsfeld Says Unconventional Enemies Seek  
Powerful Weapons . . .

*(Continued from page 12)*

that "one size fits all situations" in solving problems in Iraq or elsewhere.

Pace said the article was included in the Army's professional journal, Military Review, as a way to promote dialogue. "If only 1 percent of what he said turns out to be something that needs to be adjusted ... then we're all the better off for it," he said.

The article (<http://usacac.leavenworth.army.mil/CAC/milreview/English/NovDec05/index.asp>) is available on the Military Review Web site.

Asked for his opinion about the latest nuclear power developments in Iran, Rumsfeld said the subject best would be best left to the foreign pol-

icy experts at the White House and State Department. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2006&m=January&x=20060111183302ESnamfuak9.965152e-02&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>).)

The transcript (<http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2006/tr20060112-12303.html>) of Rumsfeld's briefing is available on Defense Department's Web site.

For additional information, see International Security (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is>).

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Darfur Aid "Too Little Too Late," . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

and coordination among the Security Council and the African Union."

"It is the wish of the council that this round [of negotiations] in Abuja should indeed be the final round," the council president said. He added that the council considers progress in the talks "very inadequate."

Noting there was a "sense of urgency" during the private Security Council meeting regarding sanctions, the president said members also want a report from its Sudan Sanctions Committee and are looking for more robust implementation of the sanctions currently in place.

The African Union, which has extended the mandate of its current peacekeeping units in Darfur to March 31, has accepted in principle the transition of its force to a United Nations peacekeeping force, Mahiga continued.

U.N. officials have already been discussing a much larger, more mobile force with tactical air support, helicopters and very sophisticated equipment and support. It would also have contingents from countries outside of Africa. ♦

Rice Calls for Security  
Council . . .

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to achieve their potential and integrate fully into the international community.

"[P]erhaps it's just a regime that has miscalculated, that believes that the world will not react in the way that it is indeed reacting," she said. "And I would hope that now seeing the very powerful reaction of the international community, that Iran would take a step back and look at the isolation that it is about to experience."

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/arms\\_control.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html)) and Middle East and North Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/>). ♦